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# The McKinley Family

by

H. T. O. Blue

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First Edition

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# FOREWORD

The following excerpts from **Ohio History Sketches** originally appeared exclusively in **The Observer** and **The East Canton News**, two Stark County (Ohio) weekly newspapers.

The author, H. T. O. Blue, is well-known as a former history teacher in the Canton (Ohio) Public Schools, a Sunday School teacher, historian and genealogist. Many of the facts in these sketches concerning the McKinley family are the results of Mr. Blue's diligent research through files and records in Lisbon, Poland and Niles, Ohio; South Bend, Indiana; and in York, Pennsylvania.

The stories cover five generations of the paternal forebearers of the late President William McKinley, as well as sketches of his mother, Nancy Allison McKinley and of the old McKinley homestead.

—East Canton Printing Co.
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## David McKinley

January 29, 1963, will be the 120th Birthday Anniversary of President William McKinley. He was the sixth generation of the McKinley family from the original McKinley who settled in York County, Penna. in 1743, just a century before the birth of Canton's most distinguished citizen.

The McKinleys were among the early pioneers of the lower part of York County, Penna. The section in which they settled was called by the Maryland colonists, "Solitude," while the Penn's called it "Lower Hallam."

In 1745 Lower Hallam was divided into two townships — Chanceford and Fawn. Two years before, in 1743, David McKinley with his wife, three sons and one daughter selected for his homestead 316 acres on the highest land in all that great wilderness. Its summit overlooked all of Chanceford and Lower Chanceford townships, with their grand succession of ridges east and west. To the north one could see the Blue Ridge Mountains 50 miles away.

David McKinley laid his foundation and erected his half stone and half log house in a sheltered open space near a large spring. At that time there were only a few log houses in the town of York. The McKinley home was 20 miles southeast of York.

David McKinley was a weaver, and like all who came with him to the barrens of York County he had to struggle against the stern opposition of natural disadvantages. There was no cleared land. The soil was so poor that one or two season's crops exhausted it and another field had to be cleared.

The sickel was his reaper, the flail his thresher, and the palms of his hands his corn sheller. There were no highways, except the so called Great Road to York.

There were only paths through the underbrush and woods. Deep ravines lay on all sides, through which rapid streams plunged down to the river three miles away. Forests of chestnut, oak, birch, poplar, sassafras and dogwood abounded throughout the area.

David McKinley was a man of energy and a very public spirited citizen. The necessity for good roads at once claimed his attention. Even before the organization of York County he was engaged in this important movement. Upon its organization in 1749 he gave his best efforts to the permanent improvement of Chanceford. Petitions for roads were circulated by David McKinley.

He was a leading champion of the first highways leading from the Susquehanna river ferries, and was appointed with William Morrison, who lived in Lower Chanceford, as the first road-viewers of Chanceford Township. He and Mr. Morrison were elected supervisors or trustees of Chanceford Township in 1750. David McKinley was probably the first McKinley elected to public office, which indicates his serious interest in public affairs.

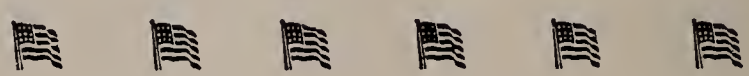
David McKinley was usually called upon to appraise the estates of his deceased neighbors, to administer upon them or become bondsman for other administrators or executors. His death occurred about the year 1757. He left his wife, Esther McKinley and four children — John, the eldest; David Jr.; Mary, the wife of Samuel Gor-

don of Fawn; and Stephen, the youngest. He did not have a will. His estates, real and personal, amounted to 570 pounds.

His body is supposed to rest in Chanceford or Guinston burial grounds, although as private grave yards were common in those days, his burial place may have been on the homestead tract. His wife, Esther, and John, his son, were made administrators of the estate. The personal property was sold for 220 pounds, 4 shillings and 11 pence.

The real estate property was, by mutual agreement, divided among his four children. John, the eldest, later purchased the original 316 acres from the heirs. This property or rather part of it was still owned and occupied by his lineal descendants until 1907, a period of exactly 150 years.

Thus it is observed that the first McKinley, the great-great-great grandfather of President McKinley, represented a substantial type of citizenship. David was the first McKinley to settle in America. His ancestors were for the most part Scotch-Irish.



## John McKinley

John McKinley, the great-great grandfather of President William McKinley, and the son of David, was not born in America, nor is it possible to state whether he was born in Scotland or North Ireland. In all probability he came with his father David to York County, Penna., in the early 1740's. Following the occupation of his father, John was a weaver by trade.

Eight children were born to John and Margaret McKinley, his wife. They were as follows: David, born May 16, 1755; Esther, 1765; Jean, 1767; Elizabeth, 1769, and Susanna, 1762. Three children born between 1755 and 1765 died in their early youth. John McKinley was well known throughout the lower part of York County, Pa., as "Big John." He was the keeper of a pioneer hotel or tavern at a point either on the old Bingham property, along the line of the original road to York going south, or about the site where old Thomas Cooney later kept a tavern.

Like his father, David, John was energetic and foremost in public enterprises and improvements. In his private business he was shrewd and thrifty, acquiring a great deal of land. To his business of weaving, he added blacksmithing and distilling. He was also a leader in the building of public roads. He was a Presbyterian and left the stamp of sectarianism on those who came after him in Chanceford township.

He had large numbers of horses and wagons, and made many trips to Baltimore, Md., and the towns of Lancaster and York, in Pennsylvania. He carried the products of his loom and his distillery to these markets. To assist his neighbors he hauled to market the products of their carding-machines, their buckwheat fields and even lambs and shoats. He was well known among the merchants of York, and

especially among the lawyers of the town.

It would seem from a study of the public records that when an appointment by the Court was to be made for Chanceford Township, John McKinley was often the appointee. He was also closely identified with the public militia service. As the years passed he gradually increased his lands by warrant and purchase, and often loaned money to his poorer neighbors, being in some cases obliged to take their property for mortgage or other security.

John McKinley was a fearless man and perfectly free to express his opinions on all public questions. In Chanceford during the years preceding the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, the Scotch-Irish while generally ardent patriots, were not unanimous on the questions as to whether or not the colonies should attempt independence from the mother country of England. The opponents of independence were a small minority. John McKinley was one of those who opposed the war, even though his own son, David, was in Gen. Washington's army at the time.

John McKinley was a man of too much importance and courage to be frightened out of expressing his convictions, and steadfastly maintained that the colonies ought not to go to war.

However, when the war was well under way, he being favorably known to the Committee of Safety, as a man of influence and means, the military authorities at York appointed him wagon-master for Chanceford. This action drew forth a petition denouncing the appointment. It is signed by many of his neighbors but it was never shown that the petition had any substantial ground other than the personal prejudices of excited partisans. Having a high regard for his patrotic son David, who had enlisted in the war, John finally became a firm supporter of the Colonial cause, and advocated American independence of England.

On February 18, 1779, John McKinley died, aged nearly 60 years. leaving his widow, Margaret McKinley; one son, David in the Pennsylvania militia; and four minor daughters. He was buried in either Guinston or Chanceford. His exact burial place does not seem to be of record, nor is that of his father David's burial place known for certain. It is quite probable that both were buried in Chanceford Township, York County, Pennsylvania.

His will on file in the records of York County, Penna., is herewith quoted as follows: — "April 24th, 1778, Item: — To my beloved wife (Margaret) I give my plantation as long as she retains her widowhood; upon her marriage she is to give up possession of the property and choose for herself the best horse or mare about the house, and to have a new saddle and fifty pounds in cash, her bed and furniture.

"Item: — I also give to my son David all that he hath received from me, with my clothes and watch and twenty (20) pounds in cash. Likewise the remainder I order to be equally divided betwixt the lawful issue of my wife by me, to wit: — Esther, Jean, Elizabeth and Susanna.

"Item: — I give unto my nephew, John McKinley, son of Stephen McKinley, the sum of thirty (30) pounds in cash, to be paid to him out of the two tracts of land called

"Small Gain" and "Locust Spring."

"I do hereby nominate and appoint my well beloved friend, John Finley, and my wife Margaret executors." Witnesses to the Will were Alexander Downing and Joseph Jackson.

Only one record has been found relative to the four minor daughters of John and Margaret McKinley. It is quoted as follows: —

"At an Orphan's Court held at the dwelling house of John Finley in Chanceford Township, York County, Penna., on the 11th day of January, 1782, before William Smith and John Herbach, Esq., Justices, etc., came Esther McKinley, aged 17 years and upwards, and Jean McKinley, aged 15 years and upwards, two minor children of John McKinley, and chose respectively, Benjamin Pedan, Esq. of Chanceford Twp., their Guardian.

"On the same date came Stephen McKinley praying the Court to appoint Benjamin Pedan, Esq., Guardian of his brother John McKinley's daughters, Elizabeth aged 13 years and Susanna, aged 10 years." Thus Benjamin Pedan became the Guardian of John McKinley's four daughters.

The homestead of John McKinley and the place where his death occurred was for many years known as the "Bingham Place" in local Pennsylvania history. It was southwest of the town of Collinsville in York County. Later on it became the property of the heirs of John H. Small.

A year or more after the death of her husband, Margaret McKinley was remarried to a man named Thomas McCullon. If the provisions of John McKinley's will were carried out, and they probably were, Margaret had to give up the title to her husband's land, but she received other gifts as provided for in the will.

## David McKinley

David McKinley, the eldest son of John and Margaret McKinley, and the grandson of David and Esther McKinley, was born in Chanceford Township, York County, Penna., on May 16, 1755. The early years of his life were spent upon the farm of his father, where he learned the ways of pioneer life. His father, John, having adopted a boy by the name of John McGinley, about the same age as his son David, the two boys were raised together and learned the weaver's trade.

Early historians state that it was a family custom or trait of the McKinleys to relate, one generation to the other, the stories pertaining to the lives and adventures of all their forefathers.

The later generations reported that they used to hear so much talk about those of the family who were engaged in the Revolutionary and the War of 1812 that it provoked them when the old folks, visiting each other, began to repeat

the twice told tales, which they had heard so many times. One member of the family said, "We left it in one ear and out at the other."

## DAVID'S WAR RECORD

David McKinley joined the local militia of Pennsylvania in Chanceford Township on April 16, 1776. His company was composed of fifty-nine men. It was the 6th company of the Sixth Battalion of the York County militia.

On the 20th of June his company was enrolled for active duty in the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington.

From 1776 to 1779 he served under the following Captains in this order: William McKaskey, Ross Laird, Joseph Reed, Holderbaum, Sloymaker, Raub, and Harnahan. He was in the battles of Amboy and Chestnut Hill; and is said to have been one of the privates under General Henry Lee when he captured the fort at Paulus Hook, now a part of Jersey City, New Jersey.

It is said by historians that the capture of the fort at Paulus Hook was an exploit of such importance that Congress expressed its appreciation by presenting General Lee with a gold medal and $15,000 to be distributed among the non-commissioned officers and privates who were angaged in the undertaking. With the gift were these words from Congress: "For the remarkable prudence, address and bravery displayed."

It is reasonably certain that David McKinley took part in the defense of Fort Washington on the Hudson River; and that he served almost continuously from June, 1776 until early in 1779 when his final enlistment was completed.

After David McKinley's service in the Revolutionary War, he returned to his York County, Penna., home for a few years, but at the age of 25 he removed to Westmoreland County, Penna., with his wife, Sarah Gray McKinley, whom he married on December 10, 1780. He continued his vocation as a weaver and did farming on a small scale for fifteen years, when he again removed to Mercer County, Penna., about 25 miles northeast of Youngstown, Ohio. From 1795 until 1814 David and Sarah continued to make their home in Mercer County.

They became the parents of four sons and six daughters as follows: William, James, John, Stephen, Martha, Sarah, Rcahel, Esther, Elizabeth and Mary. Their son, William, died young but all the other children grew to maturity. Many of the descendants of these nine children still live in various parts of the United States.

After 34 years of married life, David's wife, Sarah (Gray) McKinley passed away in 1814 in Mercer County, Pa. His older children were married and gone from the parental home. About 1809 his eldest son, James McKinley, had located in Columbiana County, Ohio, where he was engaged in the iron furnace business, with headquarters in Lisbon, the thriving county seat town of Columbiana County. Finally in the latter part of 1814 or the early part of 1815 David decided to locate in Lisbon, so he would be near his son James. He was pleased with this growing frontier town and here he met Eleanor McClane, whom he married on September 1, 1815.

To this day one may see the re-

turn of the minister, certifying to the marriage of David and Eleanor McClane. It appears in a quaint old volume of the County Records in the office of the Probate Court, every word of which is clearly legible. The official record is quoted thus: "Court Records, Columbiana County, Ohio. On the 1st day of September 1815, the Marriage Contract was solemnized between David McKinley and Eleanor McClaine. Clement Vallandigham, Minister of the Gospel. Horace Potter, Clerk of the Court." Volume 1, Page 214 — Marriage Records Probate Court.

For the next twenty years Lisbon, Ohio, was the home of David McKinley and his wife Eleanor. It is interesting to note at this point that on Page 15 of the Centennial History of Lisbon, published in 1903 there is a statement to the effect that David McKinley was for a time a teacher in a large hewed-log school house in the town. Whether he was a regular teacher or a substitute, the record does not say. The old county records show that in 1819 David McKinley purchased Lots Numbers 217 and 218 in Lisbon from Christopher Taylor, located only a few blocks from the Court House. It is presumed that this was the location of his home.

On August 15, 1832, David McKinley applied for a pension from the Government for his services in the Revolutionary War. He gave his age as 77 years in his application. Three years later his wife, Eleanor died. He continued to live in Lisbon for a short time after the death of his wife in 1835, making his home with his son James. The latter was one of the town's most prominent citizens. He had been in the iron-furnace business and had accumulated great wealth. He invested his earnings in various farms in Columbiana County; but in 1835 decided to sell some of his holdings.

Accordingly, he purchased land in western Ohio, in Crawford County, located about nine miles north of Bucyrus and just south of the town of Chatfield. David accompanied his son James and his daughter-inlaw Mary Rose McKinley to their new home in Crawford County. The farm was located along the present State Route 4. David was now in his 80th year of age but was hale and hearty. The last five years were pleasantly spent in the home of his son, James. Here his death occurred on August 8, 1840, aged 85 years and 3 months. His grave is marked in the southeast corner of the small cemetery in the rear of the church and school at the south edge of Chatfield.

Hannah Rose, the mother of Mrs. James McKinley also made her home with James McKinley. Her death and that of David McKinley occurred only one week apart.

## DAVID McKINLEY'S WILL

At the age of 83 years David McKinley, the great-grandfather of President William McKinley made his Last Will and Testament. This was a little over two years before his death At that time he was making his home with his son, James in Crawford County, Ohio, about nine miles north of the present county seat town of Bucyrus.

The Will appears in Volume 1, at Page 43 of the Will Records in the office of the Probate Court in the County Court House at Bucy-

rus. The preamble of the Will reads as follows:

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN: I, David McKinley of Columbiana County and State of Ohio, being in perfect health of body, and of sound disposing mind, memory and understanding, considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof, and being desirious to settle my worldly affairs and thereby be the better prepared to leave this world, when it shall please God to call me, hence do therefore make and publish this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following; that is to say:

**First** and principally I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter mentioned and after my just debts and funeral charges are paid, devise and bequeath as follows:

**Second** — I give, devise and bequeath to my eldest son, James McKinley, fifty-six acres of land in Crawford County, Ohio, be the same more or less, purchased from Luke Dorland, a reference to deed will more fully show, to his heirs and assigns forever.

**Third** — I give and devise to Mary Rose, now Mary McKinley, all my bed and bedding appertaining thereto, to her and in proper use and behoof forever. (Note: Mary Rose was his daughter-in-law, wife of James McKinley).

**Fourth** — I give and devise to my second son, John McKinley, the farm he now lives on during his natural life situated in Mercer County, Penna., containing seventy-five acres more or less, to him the said John McKinley, during his natural life, and after his death, said land is to be sold and the proceeds to be divided between the children of John McKinley and Stephen McKinley, share and share alike, which I give to them forever.

**Fifth** — I give and devise to my son Stephen McKinley, fifty dollars, provided that my son Stephen McKinley shall first pay out of his share any and all moneys that may be due from my said son, Stephen McKinley, to my two sons, James and John McKinley either by note, bond or otherwise, which said sum or sums of money due as aforesaid from my son Stephen, to my sons James and John shall first pay out of my said son Stephen's share of my estate.

**Sixth Item** — I will and bequeath to my daughters: Martha McKinley, intermarried with James Rose; Sarah McKinley, now Sarah Fulks; Rachael McKinley, now Rachael Anderson; Esther McKinley, now Esther Fulks; Elizabeth McKinley, now Elizabeth Ronzel; and Mary McKinley, now Mary Madison: Fifty Dollars each, ten dollars of said sum they each have received, reference to my bank book will more fully show.

**Seventh Item** — I give and bequeath to my son James McKinley, the farm of fifty acres more or less situated in Crawford County, Ohio, being the same lot of land purchased from Adrian Hoblitzell, joining the land willed to James McKinley in the second article of this Will, reference to deed will more fully show, which I give to him upon conditions that after my personal property is sold and all moneys collected, there should not be sufficient to pay my six daughters' shares, then my son James McKinley shall pay their shares, and I give said land to him the said

James McKinley, his heirs and assigns in fee simple.

And lastly, I hereby constitute and appoint my son James McKinley to be the Executor of this my Last Will and Testament, revoking and annulling all former Wills by me made, and ratifying and confirming this one, no other, to be my Last Will and Testament.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this twenty-ninth day of March, Anno Domini, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Eight.

—DAVID McKINLEY

Signed, sealed and published and declared by the above named David McKinley as his Last Will and Testament, in presence of us, who at his request, have signed as Witnesses to the same. Thomas C. Brandon, Samuel Butz, John Montgomery.

## James McKinley

James McKinley is noted in Ohio History as the grandfather of President William McKinley. James was born on September 19, 1783, in Westmoreland County, Penna., the eldest son of David McKinley, the Revolutionary War soldier.

At the age of twelve years he accompanied his parents to Mercer County, Penna., where he obtained an elementary education, assisted his father in the weaver's trade, and helped to do the farm work.

However, during his early years in Mercer County he observed the nature of the new industry just coming into prominence, known as the production of iron by means of the iron furnace. Those who engaged in the new industry were known as iron furnace workers or iron blowers. This new iron making industry so fascinated James McKinley that he decided to make it his life work. His first work was in a so called charcoal furnace.

Strange as it may seem James was married into a family of workers in iron. The family was named Rose. They were among those who had fled from England to Holland for refuge from religious persecution, at about the time the McKinleys were struggling for freedom of belief in Scotland. Andrew Rose was among the leaders of the English Puritans. He came to America from Holland with William Penn, and received a grant of land encompassing nearly sixty miles where Doylestown, Penna., now stands.

Mr. Rose was a prominent factor in the early colonial history of Pennsylvania. He prospered in business and became a member of the legislative council of the colony. His son, Andrew Rose, Jr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War for a short time but after the battle of Monmouth it was decided that he could be of more service to his country in his iron foundry than as a bearer of a musket in the field. He manufactured cannon and other ordnance supplies during the remaining years of the war.

After the war Andrew Rose, Jr., removed from Bucks County, Penna., to Center County and con-

tinued his business as an iron founder. It was about this time that the Rose and McKinley families formed an acquaintanceship which resulted in several marriages between different members of the two families.

Andrew Rose was the father of eight children, one of whom, Mary Rose, became the wife of James McKinley, grandfather of President McKinley. They became the parents of thirteen children. Their marriage occurred in Mercer County, Penna., in 1804, and it was in this county that their son, William McKinley, father of the President, was born on November 15, 1807. This explains how and why the President's father became much interested and for many years was engaged in the iron furnace business.

About the year 1809 James McKinley made a trip to Lisbon, Ohio, the county seat town of Columbiana County. His purpose was to inspect a new iron furnace erected by a man named Gideon Hughes a short distance northwest of the town on the banks of the Little Beaver Creek. He was much pleased with the prospects and a short time later he engaged for a position as manager of this very first iron furnace in the State of Ohio. In those days such a manager was known as a foreman.

This iron furnace erected by Gideon Hughes in 1808 was first known as the "Rebecca" furnace. It is quite probable that Mr. Hughes erected the well-known two-story sandstone house still standing on the west bank of the Little Beaver Creek a mile or so northwest of Lisbon.

There is a discrepancy among the old records and early writers in relating the story of James McKinley, the grandfather of President William McKinley. The main point at issue is the question as to when James McKinley first removed from Mercer County, Pa., to Lisbon, Ohio, in the county of Columbiana.

Some writers say that he came to Lisbon as early as 1809 while others say that he did not locate in Lisbon until about 1816. Be that as it may, it is certain that he became the manager or the foreman of the iron-furnace a mile or so northwest of the town of Lisbon.

His oldest son, William, who later became the father of President McKinley, was born in Mercer County, Pa., on November 15, 1807. The McKinley home in those days was located in Pine township of Mercer County, and it was from this farm home that James McKinley and his wife, Mary Rose, came to the new town of Lisbon.

A careful search of the old Deed Records in the Columbiana County Court House at Lisbon shows that James McKinley never purchased the old stone house still standing, which is today known as the old "McKinley Home."

The quaint old sandstone house was erected in 1808 by a man named Gideon Hughes for the use of the manager or foreman of the Hughes iron-furnace across the roadway from the stone house. The question at once arises as to whether or not the furnace company furnished James McKinley a fine old home free of rent.

The McKinley family must have lived there many years and no doubt all their younger children were born in the quaint old home

on the west bank of the Little Beaver Creek.

To reach the old "McKinley Home" here are the directions: follow U.S. Highway 30 to the new bridge at the west edge of Lisbon. At the east end of the bridge is a road leading north along the Little Beaver Creek. Follow this road about a mile; turn left, crossing an old iron bridge and at once the old stone house (McKinley Home) is in full view. The ruins of the old iron furnace may be seen a short distance south of the house on the opposite side of the road. Here William McKinley Sr., father of the President no doubt received his very first instruction in learning the trade of an iron furnace worker from his father, James McKinley.

The records of the Presbyterian Church in Lisbon show that James McKinley served as an elder in the church from 1822 to 1836, a period of fourteen years. It was during these years that James McKinley turned out to be what today is regarded as a good business man. He invested his earnings in farm land in the vicinity of Lisbon.

The county Deed Records show that he received a Patent Deed from the U. S. Government for 640 acres of land in the year 1818 in Section 28, Twp. 15, Range 3, which was only a few miles from Lisbon. No more deeds appear until 1832 when James McKinley purchased a farm in Section 14, Twp. 8, and Range 1, near Lisbon; and in the same year he purchased Lot No. 20 in the town of New Liberty. In 1834 he purchased another farm in Section 14, Twp. 8, Range 1; and in 1835 he purchased another farm in Section 11, Twp. 8, Range 1. His last purchase was Lot No. 90 in the village of Guildford, about six miles northwest of Lisbon.

For many years after the McKinley family left Lisbon for their farm home in western Ohio, the stately old stone house was owned by the Broughton family, well-known residents of Lisbon. It became known as the "Broughton Homestead." The house is a typical old colonial, two stories high, with the usual gigantic chimneys at either end of the structure.

The house is well cared for by the Boy Scout Council of Columbiana County and is considered a major structure of great value on their Scout Reservation. The fact that James McKinley and his family removed to Crawford County, Ohio, about 1836, seven years before President McKinley was born indicates that the old stone house was hardly the boyhood home of President McKinley.

James and Mary (Rose) McKinley, the grandparents of President William McKinley removed from their Columbiana County home at Lisbon, Ohio, about the year 1836.

During the decade from 1830 to 1840 many residents of eastern Ohio caught the so-called "western-fever" and removed to various parts of western Ohio. The argument seemed to be that the land was somewhat cheaper, more level and supposed to be much more fertile. At any rate many, many people took up the new government land in what is now northwestern Ohio.

Whether or not James sold some of his farms in Columbiana county and purchased land in Crawford county has not been determined. Nevertheless, James and his family removed to Crawford county. The old source records state that all

his sons went with him, except his son, William, who became the father of the President. At this writing not all of the names of the children of James and Mary McKinley have been ascertained.

However. the record of the marriage of James McKinley, Jr., is found in Volume 3, page 32, of the marriage records in the Probate Court at Lisbon. The return reads as follows: "I certify that on the 15th day of October, 1834, James McKinley, Jr., and Ann Lynne were legally joined in marriage by me, John Burns, Justice of the Peace." The return is dated at Lisbon, October 16, 1834.

There is no record as to how the family traveled from Lisbon to Bucyrus, but it is quite probable that they followed the stage coach road from Lisbon to Mansfield, now the well-known U.S. Highway 30. They settled in Chatfield Township, which in 1840 had a population of nearly 800. Hence, they had a substantial number of neighbors who no doubt made them welcome.

It is also quite probable that their new home was a double log cabin, which in those days was much in use on the frontier among large families.

For the next four years, David, the father of James; and Hannah Rose, the mother of Mrs. James McKinley, made their home with the family of James. There is no evidence that James was engaged in the iron furnace business, hence he probably took up farming. James seems to have been a favorite, at least a trusted son of David, for in 1838 when he made his will at the age of 83 years, he appointed his son James to be the executor of the Will. His death occurred two years later in 1840.

The years 1836 to 1840 must have been very happy ones for the entire McKinley family. But all was changed in the month of August, 1840. On the 8th, David, the Revolutionary War soldier passed away; and only one week later Hannah Rose's death occurred. They were buried side by side in what is today a small church cemetery at the south edge of the village of Chatfield.

Here may be seen to this day the quaint marble markers, suitably inscribed. They were placed at the graves by William McKinley when he was Governor of Ohio in the early 1890's. The old ones were no longer legible, so Governor McKinley purchased new ones for the graves of his great-grandparents. He made a special trip from Columbus to inspect the little cemetery.

The passing of these two aged parents must have had something to do with the decision of James and Mary McKinley to remove farther westward. Once more they became victims of the "western fever." Their next move was to St. Joseph County, Indiana, near the present city of South Bend. What induced them to seek so distant a point on the frontier will probably never be known.

One old record states that they returned to Niles, Ohio, to visit their son William and his family before setting out for Indiana. Whether they saw the future president on this occasion is not known, for his birth did not occur until January 29, 1843. However, most historians think that was about the year they removed to a new

farm home just west of South Bend, Ind.

In the early 1840's probably about 1843, James and Mary McKinley, the grandparents of President McKinley, set out for their home in St. Joseph County, Indiana. James owned a farm in Crawford County, Ohio, near the town of Chatfield, which had been willed to him by his father, David McKinley. He may have sold this tract to one of his sons; but at any rate he decided to look for new land farther west in Indiana.

James McKinley was now nearing his 60th year of age and his wife a few years younger. Their pilgrimage took them westward into a land they had never seen.

They passed the bend of the St. Joseph river to the headwaters of the Kankakee. South Bend was then an incorporated town, nestled on the bank of the river they had crossed. It contained a group of scattered dwellings and a few primitive trading stores. They pushed on through the town, traveling westward about seven miles into a wooded prairie country in St. Joseph County. Their means of conveyance is unknown to history. They were typical hardy pioneers and were able to cope with all the problems that confronted the early settlers on the frontier.

They located on the banks of the Grapevine Marsh in Warren township, St. Joseph County. From this point on we quote from an article appearing in **The South Bend, Indiana News,** on October 2, 1921, and written by Grant Lewis: "When they foraged their way through the wooded wilderness, which then was only broken by little clearings here and there, and towns and trading posts were many miles apart, their names were of no significance. Hardy pioneers they were to make the trip so far, but who they were, was not questioned by the people of their day.

"But more than fifty years afterward when William McKinley was nominated for the presidency, the names of the old couple who moved to Indiana, and who died shortly afterward, were remembered, and questions were raised if this old couple, many years dead, were related to the man who had been selected to become the nation's chief executive. Soon it was learned that the aged man and his wife, who in the 1840's had settled and made their home on the banks of the Grapevine Marsh in Warren Township, were the grandparents of William McKinley.

"It was recalled that they had been buried together in a lot in the City Cemetery at South Bend, and at once the records of the cemetery's sexton were brought to bear evidence of their true identity.

"A few days ago the writer (Grant Lewis) approached Jacob Woolverton, whose parents were among the earliest settlers of the country. Mr. Woolverton, himself 76 years old, proved he had a wide acquaintance of many old-timers, among who was Griffin Donahue, 82 years old. Mr. Woolverton was born and raised less than two miles from the spot where the McKinley couple built their home.

"Mr. Donahue has even a closer connection so far as distance from the same spot is concerned. Since boyhood he has lived on the same farm, just half a mile away. George Donahue, his father, back in 1847, drove the wagon which carried the bodies of the McKinley couple to

the City Cemetery where they were laid away.

"Mr. Woolverton volunteered to drive the writer and photographer out west of the city (South Bend) and locate the approximate spot where the McKinleys had lived. On the way he picked up Mr. Donahue and the latter was requested to refresh his memory of what he knew of his neighbors of early childhood. He did remember that he was about eight years old when the couple died, and his father at that time had conducted the funeral, driving the wagon which carried the bodies of the dead man and his wife over the rough country between their home and the South Bend Cemetery."

"James McKinley and his wife, the grandparents of President William McKinley, settled on a stretch of land, which is now (in 1921) owned by Wendel and Julian Horvath, who have owned for four years the 80-acre farm which the records show has come down as an original "80" from Henry Lusk who secured the patent to the land from the U. S. Government in 1835.

"The records also show that Lusk owned the land at the time the McKinleys settled there, and that he held title to the land until 1851. This indicates that the McKinleys were only renters. The south east corner of the land is just seven miles from the South Bend post office and borders the W. Division St. road to the south.

"The topography of the land is rolling and a hump runs east and west across the farm. At the time the McKinleys arrived on the Lusk claim this hump like most of the country was covered with timber and brush. On the northern end of this tract lies the head of Grapevine Marsh, abounding in marl.

"Just on the slope and at the edge of the marsh stood the home of James and Mary McKinley according to Mr. Donahue, who permitted the photographer to "snap" his picture while he was standing on the spot where he knew the house to have stood, before it fell away with decay. He described it as a single story frame building about 30x15 feet dimensions.

"Then it was that Mr. Donahue vouchsafed the information that John Case operated a lime kiln on this spot in the late 1840's and that the kiln was abandoned in 1849, the year of the Gold Rush to California. Since it is known that James McKinley managed iron furnaces at Lisbon, Ohio, before he came here, where it required him to chop wood for the burning of the charcoal, which smelted iron ore, it is surmised that James McKinley had something to do with this ancient and ruined kiln. Instead of mining ore, however, here he found an abundance of marl which was burned in the kiln.

"It is known that the Chain-o-Lake and the Grapevine marsh has a great abundance of marl, a principal product used in the making of cement. It might also be mentioned that the brick bats found in the Horvath field had a heavy vitrified surface, showing that at one time they had been exposed to the heat of a kiln. It could be that James McKinley worked on this very kiln."

## JAMES AND MARY MCKINLEY DIED THE SAME DAY

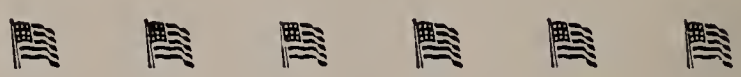
It is a true historical fact that President McKinley's grandparents died on the same day, August 20, 1847. He was 63 years, 11 months

and one day; while Mary, his wife was 58 years, 9 months and five days old. Their deaths occurred on the 43rd anniversary of their marriage. No one knows positively what caused their deaths. The remarkable fact that they both died on their wedding anniversary gave rise to the rumor that they were the victims of accidental poisoning from food eaten during a dinner given in honor of the day.

As has been stated, they were buried in the City Cemetery at South Bend, Indiana. The shaft of stone that marks their graves stands just to the south of the Laporte Avenue entrance to the cemetery. Around the lot has been erected a low iron fence which helps to distinguish the burial place.

The modest yet imposing monument and the little iron fence were ordered placed on the burial lot by President McKinley himself soon after he had taken the oath of office on March 4, 1897, as the 25th President of the United States. On the sides of the monument are the inscriptions of their names and ages at the time of death. Carved at the base of the monument is this inscription, "James McKinley and wife Mary, died August 20th, 1847. They died on the 43rd anniversary of their marriage, lived and died in the Christian faith and left a large family to mourn their loss."

There was at one time a rumor that they had been killed by warlike Indians, but this has been discounted, since the Indians of northern Indiana were very friendly among the early settlers.



## William McKinley, Sr.

William McKinley Sr., the father of President McKinley was a resident of Canton for the last 23 years of his long life. He lived to be 85 years and ten days old, having celebrated his 85th birthday just nine days before his death.

The McKinley home was located on the present West Tuscarawas Street in Canton, at the northeast corner of Shorb Avenue. It was at this residence that both the father and mother of the President passed their declining years and here their deaths occurred; his in 1892 and hers in 1897. This historic old home was torn down during the second week of December, 1927, to make room for the erection of a business building.

William McKinley, Sr., the second child of James and Mary (Rose) McKinley, was born on November 15, 1807, in Mercer County, Penna. He was one of thirteen children. When only two years of age he was taken by his parents to Lisbon, Ohio, where his father was engaged in the iron furnace business. Here he received his early education and as a youth in his early teens he learned the trade of a furnace blower. He became interested in the iron furnace business, working with his father until his marriage in 1829, when 22 years of age. From that time on he devoted all of his time and attention

to the management and ownership of iron furnaces.

A careful study of the early land records of Columbiana County at Lisbon reveals that William McKinley, Sr., was also much interested in the buying and selling of real estate. The year following his marriage he purchased a small tract of land in the town of Fairfield, about five miles west of the present city of East Palestine. Here he operated a small iron-furnace. This was in the year 1830.

In Fairfield, William McKinley, Sr., and his wife Nancy Allison began housekeeping. He was successful in business and in 1833 he purchased Lot No. 27 in Fairfield. Whether he erected a home on this lot is not certain. At any rate the next year, 1834 he purchased Lot No. 8 in the town of Columbiana and Lot No. 12 in the town of Petersburgh.

In 1835 he purchased Lot No. 10 in Fairfield; and in 1836 he bought Lot 3 in Fairfield. In 1839 he purchased a small tract of land near Fairfield, which was probably an addition to his first tract purchased in 1829 when he opened his iron furnace, shortly after his marriage.

By the year 1840, William McKinley, Sr., was one of the substantial men in the iron business in eastern Ohio. In addition to his foundry at Fairfield in Columbiana County, he had established a furnace at the town of New Wilmington, Pa., about twelve miles east of Youngstown.

In the early 1840's he obtained a good position as the manager of a large iron furnace at the town of Niles, Ohio, in Trumball County.

Niles was then a village of a few hundred inhabitants. The McKinleys lived in a long rambling two-story frame house, which served both as a store and a dwelling. At the front was a wide porch, over which great masses of woodbine climbed. Here, William McKinley, Jr., was born on January 29, 1843. He was the seventh of nine childen. The McKinley birthplace in later years was moved to a point outside of the city of Niles and a few years ago was destroyed by fire.

In 1852 when William, Jr., was only nine years of age his father removed his family from Niles to Poland, Ohio, in Mahoning County. It was a kind of old-fashioned country village, settled mostly by people of New England extraction. This move was made for the sole purpose of increasing the educational advantages of the McKinley children.

Poland had two excellent schools, one under the direction of the Presbyterians and the other under the control of the Methodist church. Just before the McKinleys moved from Niles to Poland, a fire had destroyed the Presbyterian school. As a result the two schools united under the name of the "Poland Union Seminary." However, the Seminary was frequently referred to as the Poland Academy. While a resident of Poland, William McKinley, Sr., continued his iron interests in Niles, New Wilmington, Pa., and Fairfield in Columbiana county.

In the middle 1850's Mr. McKinley engaged with Samuel O. Edison, an uncle of Thomas A. Edison, the noted inventor, for the construction of iron furnaces at Black River, a city now known as Lorain, at the mouth of Black River on Lake Erie.

This venture proved most successful and quite profitable. In fact, the McKinley business interests prospered to such an extent, that finally in 1869, Mr. Mckinly at the urgent insistence of his daughter, Miss Anna McKinley, a teacher in the public schools of Canton, and his son, William Jr., a lawyer in Canton, moved from Poland to Canton. His intention was to retire from active business pursuits. He had now attained the age of 62 years.

However, a new situation arose. He learned of an opportunity for good investments in iron furnace interests at the town of Caseville, Michigan. The little town was located on the east side of Saginaw Bay, near the main body of Lake Huron. Once again he invested in and managed iron furnaces in this new area. He continued his Ohio business interests until 1876. In the meantime his iron furnace interests had reached such proportions that he found it necessary to employ resident managers for each iron furnace. He was also compelled to establish an office in downtown Canton, where he could receive regular reports from his agents and managers, and could confer with them when they made their trips to Canton. For the last twenty years of his life he seldom missed a single day at his office. He was very exact in all his business habits, and to the very last days of his life was a close observer of public affairs.

Throughout his long life he was a great reader and an arduous student of all business conditions affecting his iron-making interests. He was the ardent advocate of a protective tariff, which principle had much to do with the making of his distinguished son, William Jr, a noted Congressman and finally President of the United States. In his earlier years he was a staunch member of the Whig political party, but after the organization of the Republican party in 1856, he cast his lot with that party. In 1828 he voted for John Quincy Adams for President and voted for every Whig and Republican candidate for the presidency down to Benjamin Harrison, in 1892. This last vote was cast only about three weeks before his death. Also, throughout his long life he was a devout member of the Methodist church.

On November 15, 1892, William McKinley, Sr, attained his 85th birthday anniversary surrounded by his family and friends in the well-known McKinley home at the northeast corner of West Tuscarawas Street and Shorb Avenue. During the morning hours he sat in his big easy chair attending his usual business affairs, receiving the reports of his assistants, writing letters of reply, etc., before turning the day over to the pleasures of a birthday anniversary celebration.

His wife and family had made extensive preparations for a gala affair. His son, William Jr., then Governor of Ohio and his wife, Ida Saxton McKinley, made a special trip from Columbus to be present for the festivities. During the afternoon and early evening many of his Canton friends dropped in to extend their best wishes. Many also came to greet the Ohio Governor and his wife. His daughter Helen and her sister Sarah Elizabeth were present to supervise the family dinner that evening.

It was an evening long to be remembered. After the festivities

were concluded, Governor McKinley and his wife returned to Columbus.

Three days later on November 18, 1892, the elderly Mr. McKinley surrendered to old age. Excepting for a broken leg in his youth, for almost the first time in his life he went to bed a sick man, a victim of paralysis. The members of his family were summoned, because his wife knew that his illness was serious. His daughter, Helen, was a resident of the home. The other daughter, Mrs. Sarah McKinley Duncan, was called; as was his son, William Jr., Ohio's Governor; also his son Abner, then in New York City.

However, he rallied and recognized all the members of his family as late as 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 23. He and his wife had been married 63 years. She was then 83 years of age and in reasonably good health. Wednesday night the immediate family began their vigil for they believed that the end was near. Death finally came at 2:15 a.m. Thursday, November 24, 1892; and his earthly career was at an end. He had attained 85 years, the same age as his grandfather, David McKinley, the Revolutionary War soldier. who passed away in 1840 in Crawford County, Ohio.

No private citizen of Canton was more generally respected and beloved than William McKinley, Sr. His long business career had given him a wide acquaintance in northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania. His vigorous health had aided much in the success of his business activities. He was regarded as a good neighbor and friend, and in public spirit none were his peers.

He was justly proud of his son, William, Jr., who had made a splendid record in Congress for many years as the Representative from the Canton District; and had lived long enough to see this son elected as the Governor of the State. Had he lived four years longer he would have seen the son elected President of the United States.

The news of his death spread quickly early Thursday morning to all parts of Stark County. That evening the Canton papers carried a full account of the life of this modest, unassuming man, extending praise for his many accomplishments. His funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 26, 1892, at his late home in charge of his minister, the Rev. E. P. Edmonds of the First Methodist Church of Canton.

The pall bearers were his near neighbors. Judge T. T. McCarty; Hon. R. S. Shields; Mayor John F. Blake; W. W. Clark, R. A. Miller, W. L. Alexander and Herman Kauffman. Burial was made on the McKinley lot on the west side of Westlawn Cemetery. As a token of respect to Governor McKinley all the elected State officials of Ohio attended the funeral rites.

## WILL OF WILLIAM McKINLEY

One of the shortest and most unusual wills to be seen in the Probate Court in the Court House at Canton is the will of Wm. McKinley, Sr. It is found in Volume K of the Will Records at Page 533. The probate date is December 14, 1892.

The case is No. 4030 and reads as follows: "Be it remembered that heretofore to wit: on the 7th day of December, A. D. 1892, there was filed in the Probate Court within and for the County of Stark and State of Ohio, an Instrument in writing, purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of William

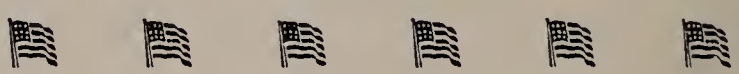
McKinley, Sr.. deceased, late of Canton and which is in the words and figures following to wit:

WILL. "It is my will that the property of every kind of which I die seized shall go to my daughter, Helen, so long as she remains single to be disposed of by her as she deems proper. She knows fully my wishes and desires in the premises and I leave her to carry them out. I hereby declare the foregoing to be my Last Will and Testament; and the same is my voluntary act and deed." (Signed) William McKinley Sr. (Seal)

Signed by us in the presence of the testator at his request and signed by him in our presence, August 4th, 1890. Sonoma Arbuckle, Rose A. Baile — Witnesses. Notice to the following heirs was dated December 7, 1892: Nancy McKinley, widow; Helen McKinley, daughter; Sarah Duncan, daughter; William McKinley Jr., son; Grace Howe McKinley, a minor over 14 years of age; James McKinley, a minor under 14 years of age.

Jacob P. Fawcett,
Probate Judge,
by M. E. Aungst, Deputy

It will be observed that the Will contains only one item of 75 words, a record for brevity. It is also quite interesting to note that Mr. McKinley made his Will on August 4, 1890, which was the very day that his daughter Anna's Will was filed for probate in the Probate Court. Anna's death occurred on July 29, 1890. Perhaps the father thought it was time for him to make his Will.



## Nancy McKinley

Nancy Allison McKinley, the mother of President McKinley, was in many respects the ideal pioneer mother. She was a daughter of Abner Allison, a typical descendant of Scotch Covenanter ancestry.

The Allisons settled in Virginia in a very early day long before the Revolutionary War. Later on some of the family removed to Pennsylvania, then one of the original thirteen colonies. Here Abner Allison, the maternal grandfather of President McKinley was born, and reared to manhood.

In 1798 Abner Allison was married to Miss Ann Campbell, who was of Scotch German descent. For a time they lived in Pennsylvania, but about the time Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1803 Abner and Ann Allison decided to seek a new home in the new state of Ohio. Packing all of their personal belongings in saddle bags they started for the west as they called it. Each was on horseback, Mrs. Allison holding her youngest child in front of her.

They journeyed over the pioneer trail, known for years as the Great Indian Trail, to what is now Columbiana County, Ohio. They located on a tract of land about eight miles from the present Lisbon, the county seat. Here their daughter Nancy was born in 1809 and here she was reared. The family lived in a primitive log cabin as other pioneers, becoming accustomed to

the hardships of life on the frontier.

Abner Allison was a patriot. In September 1812 he enlisted his services in Captain Daniel Harbaugh's company of Light Dragoons, most of whom were Columbiana County young men. The company served under General William Henry Harrison, the commander of the forces in northwestern Ohio. When Abner Allison returned from the war little Nancy was five years old.

Following the war Mr. Allison continued his farming pursuits on his land near Lisbon. Nancy received her early education in the district schools, where she was regarded as a great favorite among her schoolmates.

A few years later Abner Allison sought employment in Lisbon, a growing town that provided better opportunities for the education of his children.

It is quite probable that the 22-year-old William McKinley and the 20-year-old Nancy Allison met each other at their church in Lisbon. At any rate young McKinley was employed by his father, James McKinley, the manager of the Gideon Hughes iron furnace in Lisbon. They were married on January 6, 1829; and to this day one may see the return of the minister on file in Volume 2, Page 330 of the Marriage Records of Columbiana County, Ohio, in the Court House at Lisbon. Both Volumes 1 and 2 are small ledger-like books, carefully preserved in the Probate Judge's office.

The Return of the minister is quoted as follows: "It is hereby certified that on the 6th day of January, 1829 William McKinley and Nancy Allison were married by me. 15th January, 1829, A. G. Richardson, Minister of the Gospel, Returned 15th of Jan. 1829 & recorded by the Clerk."

Soon after their marriage the couple went to housekeeping at the town of Fairfield, about two miles west of East Palestine, where William McKinley was in the iron-furnace business on his own.

The old McKinley home at the northeast corner of West Tuscarawas Street and Shorb Avenue in Canton was acquired for William McKinley, Sr., and his wife, Nancy Allison McKinley, by their daughter Anna, a woman of high and noble character and scholarly attainments, in 1867. For thirty years she was a teacher in the Canton public schools. She was idolized by a great host of Canton school youth and won a place in Canton's hall of fame. Her portrait, the gift of the Canton Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, hangs in the lobby of McKinley High School on North Market Street.

It was through her influence that William McKinley located in Canton to practice law. It was through her thrift that the home at 815 West Tuscarawas Street was bought and established for her parents. There the reunited McKinley family lived happily. From this old home, William McKinley, Jr., as a young lawyer went to his office day by day to wrestle with legal problems. From it later he went to claim Ida Saxton as his bride and to at last establish his own home at 723 Market Avenue, North, in the "little white house on the hill." In this old historic home in late November, 1892, William McKinley, Sr., passed away with his son the Governor of Ohio, at his bedside; and here five years

later, Nancy Allison McKinley passed away with her son, the President of the United States, at her bedside.

To her many Canton friends she was known as "Mother McKinley." She was a wonderful mother of nine children and was a very real helpmate to her husband and always bore her burdens well. She was a devout Christian and a regular attendant at all the church services of the First Methodist Church on West Tuscarawas Street and Cleveland Avenue. At the time of her death her Canton friends and neighbors recalled how day after day she went to market and carried home her purchases. One writer stated that she was a model mother, a good worker, and a champion pie baker, and that she liked to make and eat good pies.

Nancy Allison McKinley was stricken with paralysis on Thursday, December 2, 1897. Her famous son, the President, was in Washington deeply engaged in affairs of state. He was completing a message to be delivered to Congress in a few days. High officials discussed what McKinley might legally do. Would he rush to Canton? Would he dare break precedent and not send a message to Congress on the state of the Union. No former president had considered such a thing. But with McKinley it was different. He heard the call of mother love. He sent a telegram to his brother Abner in Canton which read, "Tell mother I am coming." The President and his wife took the first train for Canton. He made haste to fulfill in person, his message.

From the train they were driven to the old McKinley home. President McKinley hurried into his mother's bed chamber. "Mother, William and Ida are here," was the announcement as they neared their stricken mother. The aged woman understood. She rallied strength and reached out in a feeble way to touch her son. He stooped and kissed her. She tried to welcome the President's wife. With sincere concern the President remained at the old home over night. Saturday, December 4, he returned to Washington. On Monday, December 6, his Message to Congress was delivered.

He gave proper attention to official business, but his heart and most sacred thoughts were with his mother. He was informed hour by hour as to her condition.

On Monday evening of December 6, he again set out for Canton. His mother was near death. The President arrived at her bedside and remained nearby for the remainder of the week. Every person in Canton was aware of Mother McKinley's serious illness; and everyone in the town knew that the President was at her bedside. **The Canton Repository** carried an hour-to-hour report as to her condition, publishing the same in the late afternoon edition of the paper. The doctors announced that her vitality could not hold out long, the weight of her 88 years was too heavy. Finally she lapsed into a coma; and early Sunday morning, December 12, 1897, her life spark went out, as the President sat by her bedside holding her hand.

## NANCY McKINLEY'S WILL

Nancy Allison McKinley made her will on May 20, 1895. She was then 86 years of age. Her husband had been dead nearly three years, and she was living with her daughter Helen at the McKinley home.

Her will is found in Volume O, at pages 292-293 in the Will Records in the office of the Probate Judge in the Court House at Canton. Her will was filed for probate on December 24, 1897.

The will is quoted as follows: "I, Nancy Allison McKinley, being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and publish this my Last Will and Testament. **First.** I will and direct that all just debts existing against me at the time of my death shall be paid.

"**Second.** In the event my daughter, Helen, should survive me, then and in that event, I give, devise, and bequeath to her, her heirs and assigns forever, all the real estate and personal property of which I may die seized, subject however, to the payment by her of $50 to Rose Baile, provided said Rose Baile remains in my employ up to the time of my death.

"**Third.** In event my daughter Helen should not survive me, then and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath to my sons, William McKinley, Jr., and Abner McKinley, and their heirs and assigns forever, all the estate, both real and personal of which I may die seized, subject however, to the payment by them of the following special bequeasts, (a) the payment to Rose Baile of the sum of $50 in event she remains in my employ up to the time of my death.

"(b) the payment to my daughter, Mrs. Sarah Duncan, during her natural life of $35 per month payable to the first of each and every month, and I make the payment thereof a special charge upon the following property to wit: the house and lot situated on the northeast corner of West 5th and Shorb Streets; the house and lot on the southeast corner of West 4th and Shorb Streets; and the house and lot situated on West 4th Street, next to said corner lot, and each situated in the city of Canton, county of Stark, and state of Ohio. (Note: In those days West 5th was the present West Tuscarawas St; and West 4th St. was the present 2nd St. N. W.)

"(c) The payment to Mabel McKinley of $3,000; to Grace Howe McKinley, $1500; to Maurice Duncan Bowman, $1500; to Ida McKinley Morse, $1500; to Sarah Duncan, my granddaughter, $1500; to James McKinley, $1500; to William McKinley Duncan, $750; to Jack Duncan, $750. Said sums to be paid in five equal annual payments commencing one year after the death of my daughter, Mrs. Sarah Duncan; and in the event of the death of any of said legatees, before the amounts specified shall have been so paid, then and in that event, said sums so to have been paid, to said deceased legatee or legatees, shall be paid to the surviving legatees in the proportion and in the manner above set forth, and I make the payment of said legacies a special charge upon my real estate, situated on the north side of West 5th Street and on the south side of West 4th Street in the city of Canton, Stark County, Ohio.

"**Fourth.** I do hereby nominate and appoint Wiliiam McKinley, Jr., and Abner McKinley, Executors of this my Last Will and Testament, hereby authorizing and empowering them to compromise, adjust, release, and discharge in such manner as they deem proper, the debts and claims due me. I do also authorize and empower them, if it shall become necessary in order to pay debts, or any other purpose

within the provision of this Will, to sell at private sale, or in such manner upon such items of credit, or otherwise, as they may think proper, all or any part of my real estate, and deeds to purchasers to execute, acknowledge and deliver in fee simple.

"I desire that no appraisement and no sale of my personal property be made, and that the Executives above named, be not required to give bond, either as executors or trustees, and that the Court of Probate direct the omission of the same, in pursuance of the statute.

"I do hereby revoke all former Wills by me made. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 20th day of May, A. D. 1895.

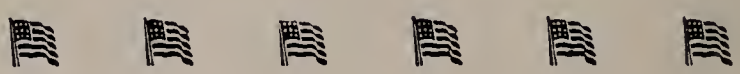
(Signed) Nancy McKinley,
(Seal)

"Signed and acknowledged by said Nancy McKinley, as her Last Will and Testament, in our presence and signed by us in her presence."

Chas. R. Miller
W. K. Miller

Application for probate filed in Probate Court, December 24, 1897.

Next of kin, degree of kinship, and post office address given as follows: William McKinley, son. Washington D. C.; Sarah Duncan, daughter, Cleveland, Ohio; Helen McKinley, daughter, Canton, Ohio; Abner McKinley, son, New York City; Ida Helen Morris, grand-daughter, San Francisco, Calif.; Grace McKinley, grand-daughter, Canton, Ohio; James McKinley, grandson, Canton, Ohio. Will was probated on December 27, 1897 by Henry A. Wise, Probate Judge, Stark County, Ohio.



## The McKinley Home

On Friday, December 9, 1927, workmen began tearing down one of Canton's most historic homes. Yes, the beautiful old spacious two-story home of President McKinley's father, William McKinley Sr. and his beloved mother, Nancy Allison McKinley, was razed, so that a place of business might be erected upon the site.

It is a strange coincidence, but the old home was being torn down just 30 years almost to the day that the President's mother passed away.

The house set back some distance from the north side of West Tuscarawas Street and four or five huge shade trees graced the front lawn. There was a very wide porch across the front of the house; and a side porch along Shorb Avenue, on the west side of the building. Both porches were roofed, supported by the large square pillars, which were much in use in those days.

Today there is not a sign of any kind that in a home on this site occurred the death of the President's father in 1892 and his mother in 1897. His parents lived in this house from 1869 until their deaths. Among most Canton people the old

home was referred to as the "Mother McKinley Home." Here in this fine old Victorian home there were many social functions when young Major McKinley, a dashing hero had returned from the Civil War, and was then a popular young attorney in Canton.

Nancy Allison McKinley wanted her son to be a bishop and there was always an atmosphere deeply religious in the family home. A hospitable spirit prevailed, for the McKinleys were a friendly family. Quite often their friends and relatives were invited to share pleasant meals with Mr. and Mrs. McKinley, Sr., and their two daughters Anna and Helen. The two daughters and their mother with the assistance of one "hired girl" prepared and served the "company dinners."

When William McKinley, the young Canton lawyer, walked home from church with Miss Ida Saxton, the banker's daughter, whom he later married, it was always to the West Tuscarawas Street home that the young man returned in time for prayers before the family retired for the night.

In later years, many times the coach of the President of the United States stood near the old hitching-post while President McKinley spent many pleasant hours with his mother. In times of stress when he was too busy with affairs of the nation to come to Canton, he always asked his friends to be his personal messengers to his mother and spend as much time with her as possible.

The following is quoted from a story appearing in the former **Canton Daily News** as of December 11, 1927: "There is a note of sadness about the echo of the hammer as the workman tear apart the old home. The old marble mantels, such excellent examples of the workmanship of a half century ago, are to be preserved. The old corner cupboard in which Mother McKinley arranged her glasses of jelly and preserves so neatly on the shelves is to be taken away carefully and placed in some Cantonian's home, to be cherished as a relic of by-gone days. The old chandeliers from which the gas lights flickered in later years, will be preserved."

After the death of Mother McKinley in 1897 the home became the property of her daughter, Miss Helen McKinley. Some time later she leased the house and its furnishings to Professor Day, then the Superintendent of the Canton Public Schools. Upon his death she rented the house for a time and later sold it to Dr. J. P. DeWitt, a well-known Canton physician. He entered into a ten-year lease with the P. T. Burrell Co., Inc., who planned to erect a business establishment on the site.

We close this sketch with a final quotation from **The Canton Daily News** as follows: "A number of years ago the late Edward Holden became interested in preserving the McKinley homestead as a memorial to the parents of President McKinley. He interested Miss Helen Gould and she planned to purchase the home and establish a home for aged women in it. She sent her representative to Canton and the plans were practically complete when her marriage to Finley Shepherd took place and Mrs. Shepherd wrote that she would have to curtail some of her charities and had decided to give up the McKinley memorial home idea."

## SCOTCH-IRISH ANCESTORS

The following paragraph will explain the meaning of the term Scotch-Irish; and since the ancestors of President McKinley were of that nationality, the explanation is in order.

In 1607 King James I located a large number of Scotch farmers and tradesmen in the northern portion of Ireland on lands from which the Irish had been evicted. These settlements were gradually augmented by immigrants from Scotland and many of the Irish who sought the fertile lands of north Ireland, until in the course of time the Scotch-Irish element predominated in this region. They were for the most part staunch Presbyterians in their religous faith and in time developed various characteristics and traits so marked as to almost stamp them as a distinct race.

It is known that James McKinley, known in history as "James, the Trooper," went to Ireland as the official guide to the victorious army of King William III at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. He settled in Ireland, becoming the ancestor of many of the Irish McKinleys.

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